Purchase of Cotton by the Cotton Corporation of India

1102. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of cotton has been dipping during the current year;

(b) if so, what is its impact on the textile industry in the country; and

(c) whether Government have any plans for distress purchase of cotton by the Cotton Corporation of India and to supply the same to the Textile Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) and (b) The prices of cotton have shown a declining trend since January 1989 which is expected to have a beneficial impact on the textile sector as a whole.

(c) As the prevailing prices are still much higher than the minimum support prices, the question of such distress purchase does not arise for the present.

Value of Rupee

1103. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what were the currency rates (US$, UK£, D.M. and Yen) in terms of rupee as on December 30, 1988, March 31, 1988, a year before December, 1988 and five years before that;

(b) what has been the percentage variation in terms of rupee against the currencies mentioned above during these periods; and

(c) what has been the impact on the consumption patterns of the Indians as a result of such variation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The exchange rates of rupee against US$, UK£, D.M., and Yen as on December 30, 1988, March 31, 1988, a year before December, 1988 and five years before that and the percentage variation thereof are indicated below:—

(Rs. per unit of foreign currency)

Date	US Dollar	Pound Sterling	Deutsche Mark	Japanese Yen
December 31, 1982 . .	9.6866	15.70	4.0778	0.0414
December 31, 1987 . .	12.8598 (– 24.6753)	23.90 (– 34.31)	8.0681 (– 49.46)	0.1042 (– 60.27)
March 31, 1988 . . .	13.0318 (–4.32)	24.35 (1.85)	7.8308 (+3.03)	0.1042 (Nil)
December 30, 1988 . .	15.1050 (–13.73)	27.05 (–9.98)	8.4471 (–7.30)	0.1201 (–13.24)

Percentage variation from the row above indicated in brackets)

(c) It is not possible to quantify the impact of the exchange rate variation on the consumption patterns of the population.

Projection of "Clean Ganga Project" through various Medias

1104. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not been able to project "Clean Ganga Project" through various medias; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to highlight the above project through different medias?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir. The Ganga Action Plan has been receiving wide coverage in the various media.

(b) The Public Awareness Programme regarding the Ganga Action Plan has been organised over the last three years through a multi-media campaign. Information folders and progress reports have been published regularly. National Press teams have been visiting the Ganga* Action Plan cities and towns and disseminating information on the work being done. It is estimated that on an average over a hundred news items have been appearing in the print media every month. Special programmes have been telecast through Doordarshan on the National and Regional Networks on the Ganga Action Plan. This has included news items on the Ganga Action Plan, TV documentaries on specific cities like Allahabad, Hardwar, Patna, Kanpur and Calcutta and a special film on Allahabad for the Kumbh Mela. There has been adequate coverage on the AIR too. The Ganga Action Plan has been highlighted in programmes like the 'Yuvavani', 'Subah ki Chai', 'Charcha Ka Vishya' etc. AIR has also broadcast programmes for special target groups like children, farmers, women and military personnel. Documentary films have been produced by the Films Division and the State Information Departments and these have been shown in the cinemas. During the recent Kumbh Mela at Allahabad, the Ganga Action Plan was highlighted through a special exhibition, extensive coverage in the print media through visit of a Press party, video films on Doordarshan and special programmes in the AIR. In all major cities under the Action Plan, exhibitions have been organised to enable the people to understand the programme and progress of work. So far 27 exhibitions have been organised. In addition a mobile exhibition has been covering rural and semi-rural areas.

राष्ट्रीय अखंडता परिषद की बैठक

1105. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :** क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) राष्ट्रीय अखंडता परिषद की पिछली बैठक किस तारीख को हुई थी;

(ख) तब से लेकर अब तक इस परिषद की कोई बैठक न बुलाये जाने के क्या कारण हैं और इस परिषद की अगली बैठक किस तारीख को बुलाये जाने का विचार है; और

(ग) राष्ट्रीय अखंडता परिषद की स्थायी समिति की पिछली बैठक किस तारीख को हुई थी और तब से लेकर अब तक इसकी कोई बैठक न बुलाये जाने के क्या कारण हैं?

गृह मंत्री (श्री बूटा सिंह) : (क) से (ग) राष्ट्रीय एकता परिषद और राष्ट्रीय एकता परिषद की स्थायी समिति की पिछली बैठकें क्रमश 12 सितम्बर, 1986 तथा 23 जून, 1987 को हुई। राष्ट्रीय एकता परिषद/स्थायी समिति द्वारा अल्प संख्यकों के कल्याण और साम्प्रदायिक स्थिति के 15 सूत्री कार्यक्रम पर विचार करके यह महसूस किया